GENERAL EDUCATION IN SOVIET BELORUSSIA

871 The development of Soviet schools in the Belorussian SSR during the first decade of Soviet rule took a somewhat different path from that in the other parts of the Soviet Union. Until 1921, Belorussia was an arena of wars and occupation, first German and then Polish. If the Council of Peoples Commissaries of the RSFSR decreed on August 21st, 1923, that the preparation of a project for general education should be undertaken, in the BSSR such a decree was issued only three years later, on April 7th, 1926. In the RSFSR lower and upper division schools were organized from the very beginning. In Belorussia the public schools adopted a seven year program which was separated into two divisions: the lower, comprising the first to fourth grades (the elementary school) and the upper, comprising the fifth to seventh grades. Technical schools of various specialties with four years of training included secondary education and paved the way to higher institutions of learning. The pernicious experiments of the State Learned Council of the People's Commissariat for Education of the RSFSR affected the schools of Belorussia to a lesser degree. The People's Commissariat for Education of the BSSR was headed by the intelligent pedagogue V. Ignatovskii, professor at the Teachers' Institute. His pedagogical experience and knowledge of public schools did not allow Professor Ignatovskii to take the road of careless school reforms. In 1929 he was accused [661] of national democratism, and committed suicide. In 1930, widespread arrests of educators took place. Several experienced pedagogues in the People's Commissariat for Education of the BSSR were also arrested. After 1930, the original conservatism in matters concerning the schools of Belorussia was liquidated, and in the course of two to three years the schools assumed the monotonous Soviet form.

The Second World War quite definitely put an end to this chaotic educational regime in the Soviet schools and for many years [727] hampered the "completion" of general education. School affairs in Belorussia suffered particularly during the German occupation. Only through the great efforts and self-sacrificing work of Belorussian public workers and the local population, was it possible to arrange for work in schools and even to organize teachers' seminars during the war.

162 inhabitants numbered 4,983,240). The greatest increase had occurred in the towns, largely as a result of the growth of industry. From 1926 to 1939 the urban population of the B.S.S.R. rose from 847,830 to 1,372,522; while the numbers of rural inhabitants remained almost constant: 4,135,410 in 1926 as compared with 4,195,454 in 1939.

In the Soviet Union as a whole, the population had increased by 15.9 per cent., from 147 million in December 1926 to over 170 million in 1939. However, whereas the numbers living in towns had more than doubled (26 million to 55.9 million); the rural population had decreased from 120.7 million to only 114.5 million.

No census has been taken in the Soviet Union since the war; and the present population of the B.S.S.R. is not definitely known. In October 1939, after the incorporation of the ex-Polish regions, it was about 10,386,000 inhabitants.

The principal cities of Byelorussia with their 1939 populations are Minsk, the capital (238,772), Vitebsk (167,424), Gomel (144,169), Mogilev (99,440), and Bobruisk (84,107). As compared with 1926 the populations of all these towns had increased from 64 to 98 per cent. by 1939.

War Losses

721 On June 22, 1941, the German armies, supported by their satellites,
727 attacked the Soviet Union on its 1,500-mile European front; and in the early phase of the war, succeeded in overrunning the western Soviet Republics of Byelorussia and the Ukraine. For the second time in this century these areas were subjected to German occupation and devastation.

Lying directly in the path of the enemy advance towards Moscow, the Byelorussian Republic experienced terrible destruction. Just one month after the initial Nazi attack, the German News Agency announced that the Byelorussian town of Vitebsk (which the Nazis, according to their claim, had captured on July 11), had been "nothing but ruins when
727 occupied". As the war progressed, this black statement was to be true of most Byelorussian cities. In August 1941, according to an estimate by Allen and Muratoff,[1] the Germans were employing half their Panzer divisions and at least 40 per cent. of all their available forces in the Vitebsk-Smolensk-Mogilev sector.

Even after the Soviet Army retreat, Byelorussia continued to be a battle ground as Soviet guerillas carried on heroic warfare against the enemy occupying forces.

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1 The Russian Campaigns of 1941-43, Allen and Muratoff, Penguin Books, London, 1944.

727 Byelorussia was not liberated until the summer of 1944; and the Ukraine even later, in November 1944. Both were in ruins. At the end of the war in Europe these two Republics were acknowledged to be the most devastated areas of all devastated Europe. Nowhere else had the destruction been carried out in so thorough a manner and on so wide a scale. Whole cities and villages were demolished; great industries wrecked; and farms pillaged and burned. Millions of Byelorussian and Ukrainian citizens had been made homeless, and were camping in cellars, dugouts and caves.

Losses of population were enormous. Apart from army casualties, the numbered civilian dead in the two Republics was as much as 10 to 15 per cent. of the total populations. At the Minsk trial of German war criminals in January 1946, the indictment alleged that 2.2 million Soviet civilians and prisoners of war were exterminated in Byelorussia by the Germans. The indictment also declared that 380,000 people were driven from Byelorussia to Germany for forced labour. (Of these so deported, about 300,000 had been returned home by August 1946). Another estimate of lives lost in the war has been given by Mr. Ivan Tinchuck, the UNRRA member for the Byelorussian Republic, who stated that the Republic lost 1,386,000 persons (mostly women, children and old people). Most of these had been tortured and shot, hanged, burned or gassed to death. These figures do not include the Byelorussians in the Soviet Army who were battle casualties.

Some indication of the population losses and of the present population can be gathered from the fact that in the February 1946 elections, there were 4,043,284 voters in the B.S.S.R. out of the Soviet Union total electorate of 101,717,686. Thus the electorate of the B.S.S.R. was less than 4 per cent. of the total; whereas at the end of 1939 this Republic's population represented 5.3 per cent. of all the inhabitants of the entire Soviet Union. This year in Byelorussia the electorate attained to 4,435,919.

The material damage in Byelorussia was almost indescribable. The major cities had been destroyed, and 9,200 villages burnt. In them, the Germans had demolished over a million buildings, including state and cultural institutions, hospitals, schools, and dwellings. As a result of this destruction, three million people - nearly one-third of the population - lost all their personal belongings and their homes. Some indication of the destruction wrought in the towns is given in the following table.

TABLE I

War Destruction of Byelorussian Towns

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	Population 1939	Population June 1946	Estimated percentage destruction
Minsk	238,772		80
Vitebsk	167,424	62,000	90 - 93
Gomel	144,169		80
Orsha	62,000[1]	34,000	80
Polotsk	30,000[1]	24,000	96
Borisov	88,000[1]	43,000	50

1 Population in 1940, according to UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia.

Sources: Statement by Mr. Ivan Tinchuk, UNRRA Member for the B.S.S.R., August 1945; and UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

According to the indictment of the Minsk trial of German war criminals, 1,136 hospitals, clinics and first aid centres were destroyed during the occupation. The civilian population received no medical services from the Germans during the war and the incidence of various diseases increased enormously. There was also a drastic increase in infant mortality.

Byelorussian industry has been systematically reduced to rubble. Everywhere the pattern of destruction was the same. Enterprises had been stripped of machinery, and the buildings burned or blown up. Stationary equipment was destroyed or rendered useless.

Agriculture and livestock breeding suffered equally. Millions of farm animals were slaughtered or taken to Germany. Ten thousand collective and state farms were plundered. From machine and tractor stations alone, 8,996 tractors and 1,105 combine harvesters were removed and taken to Germany. (By comparing these losses with the immediate pre-war numbers of 12,000 tractors and 1,600 combines, it can be seen what German occupation meant to mechanised farming in this Republic.)

The destruction of agriculture had severe consequences on the food situation. In May 1945 the Chief of the UNRRA Supplies Department in the Byelorussian Government stated that, while there was no actual [262] starvation, there was serious undernourishment in many areas. UNRRA Mission observers reported that at that time the large majority of the people had little to eat beyond bread, potatoes and UNRRA food. The shortage of fats and oils was particularly acute; in the spring of 1945 the daily fat ration in children's homes was only 20 grams, compared with 100 grams before the war.

727 Reckoned in terms of 1941 state prices, the direct damage inflicted on the Byelorussian S.S.R. by the German military attack and the prolonged occupation has been placed at 75,000 million roubles (15,000 million U.S. dollars). This includes material losses due to destruction, damage, and plunder; and it represents 11 per cent. of the damage to the entire Soviet Union, which has been estimated at 679,000 million roubles.

The following table shows how Byelorussia's war damage has been assessed to the separate branches of the economy.

TABLE II

War Damage to the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
(in million U.S. dollars)

Industry and building	1,263.84
Transport and communications	1,998.96
Housing and municipal economy	917.94
Agriculture	4,480.34
Commerce	141.22
Education	464.76
Arts	32.68
Public Health	122.12
State institutions	241.44
Co-operation	387.16
Public organizations	68.48
Religious communities	161.06
Personal property of citizens	4,720.00
Total	15,000.00

Note: Damage is estimated in terms of 1941 state prices: 75,000 million roubles, converted to dollars at the rate of 5 roubles equal one dollar. The present official rate is 5.40 roubles to the dollar.

Source: Statement by Mr. K.V. Kiselev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian S.S.R., published in the Soviet Monitor, London, February 8, 1947.

727 648 The Request for UNRRA Assistance

Rehabilitation work in the B.S.S.R. commenced even before the war was ended. Great assistance was given by other areas of the U.S.S.R., but so many of the economically important regions of the Soviet Union had suffered destruction that the help which they could provide was limited.

Early in 1945 it became apparent that both Byelorussia and the Ukraine would need further external assistance if they were to carry on

727 648 the full tasks of rebuilding homes, restarting industry, and working their farms once more. Therefore, in the summer of 1945 the Soviet Government applied to UNRRA for such assistance and strongly urged that 700 million U.S. dollars be allocated by the Administration for relief work in these two Republics. In August 1945 the Ukraine and Byelorussia were admitted to membership in UNRRA; and on December 18, 1945, after it was determined that they were not in a position to pay with foreign exchange for their own import requirements, agreements were signed between their governments and the Administration providing for the delivery of relief and rehabilitation supplies amounting to 250 million dollars - little more than one-third of the amount requested.

The UNRRA agreement with Byelorussia provided that 61 million dollars would be used to ship food, clothing, medical, agricultural, and industrial supplies to the B.S.S.R. The agreement also stipulated that UNRRA would attempt to deliver the bulk of these supplies to Byelorussia before June 30, 1946; however, because of procurement and transport difficulties, this proved impossible. On May 30, 1946, therefore, the UNRRA-Byelorussian agreement was extended to the end of 1946.

On April 19, 1946, a small UNRRA Mission arrived in Byelorussia and established headquarters at Minsk. The duties of the Mission were to handle problems connected with the delivery of UNRRA supplies, to work closely with the Byelorussian Government in ascertaining the needs of the people, and to observe the distribution of UNRRA supplies. As in all UNRRA countries, the Mission members have complete freedom of movement and observation.

Before the arrival of the Mission at Minsk, 29 ships carrying UNRRA cargoes had already landed at Soviet ports (from December 1945, when UNRRA shipments started, up to April 23, 1946). The Byelorussian Government estimated the tonnage received at 67,680 gross long tons, of which 58,000 tons were food; 3,939 tons, seeds; 3,905 tons, industrial materials; and 1,512 tons were clothing, soap, leather, tarpaulins, and rope. The government also reported that they had taken from the ports and distributed all but 22,000 tons of the supplies received by that time.

Members of the UNRRA Mission making initial observations reported efficient and equitable distribution of the supplies to those sections of the population which suffered most from the war. Practical use was being made of every scrap of material, and there was no evidence of waste. As at April 23, 1946, 40,000 gross long tons of food had been distributed among 12 regions and eight individual towns in Byelorussia. Eleven locomotives had been distributed to nine different points; industrial metals - copper, aluminium, and zinc - had been distributed in six of the war destroyed cities; and over 1,000 tons of seeds, to seven regions of the Republic.

648 262 It was in food supplies that UNRRA was making its greatest contribution. In all the shops, UNRRA food constituted the bulk of the supplies; and apart from bread, cereals, and potatoes, over 90 per cent.

of the Byelorussian diet came from UNRRA sources. Meat supplies from domestic production were almost nil; fats and oils also were critically short; and little sugar was available, the Byelorussian sugar industry having been completely smashed.

Spring 1946: The Outlook

In Byelorussia, 1946 was expected to be a great year for recovery. The new Five Year Plan had just been adopted; UNRRA assistance was getting into full swing; and the relief supplies were filling a wide gap. The food situation was poor but, thanks to UNRRA help, not desperate. Material progress was being made; destroyed houses were being rebuilt, and farming and industry slowly restored.

The following sections of this report will try to tell a little of the story of Byelorussia before the war; indicate the damage inflicted by the German invaders and consider Byelorussian reconstruction as it progresses today.

Long Term Rehabilitation Plans

On March 18, 1946, the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. adopted a series of measures for the long-term rehabilitation of the Soviet Union. Incorporated in the fourth Five Year Plan (1946-1950), these measures were designed to rehabilitate the devastated regions of the country, to recover the pre-war level in industry and agriculture, and then considerably to surpass that level.

Included in the Plan are provisions for capital investments in the Byelorussian Republic of 6,950 million roubles in 1946-50;[1] of this 2,422 million roubles are to be spent for works under the jurisdiction of the Republic. While small in comparison to the 75,000 million roubles estimated war damage suffered by the B.S.S.R., this volume of capital investments is greater than the combined expenditures of 5,741 million made during the three pre-war Five Year Plans, (1928-42). Although some allowance must be made for the lower value of the rouble, the physical goals themselves are also greater.

The new plan contemplates great expansion, but no marked changes in the direction of Byelorussian economic development. Agricultural production is to be revived; and by 1950 the crop area is to be 5,300,000 hectares. Industrial plans for 1946-50 are largely centered in the development of electric power, and peat, brick and other building materials, all of which were well established before the war. One significant trend is toward the construction of more hydro-electric stations, which in 1950 will produce 12 per cent. of the total power,

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[1] Capital investments for the whole Soviet Union in 1946-50 are fixed at 250,300 million roubles.

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185 as compared to 1.6 per cent. in 1940. Peat briquette plants, prefabricated housing manufacture, and food processing plants are also to be launched. Except for the planned construction of factories to produce tractors and motor trucks - and these will be assembly plants rather than manufacturing ones - no heavy industry is to be established. The production of agricultural machinery will be a new feature in Byelorussian industry.

Also in the five year period, the major cities of Byelorussia are to be restored - particularly Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Bobruisk, Orsha, and Borisov. In all seven of these cities peat plants are to be rebuilt, and in most of them, brick plants and other industries such as porcelain works, clothing factories, tanneries, food processing plants, match factories, and agricultural machinery plants. Municipal and cultural services are to be restored, and housing is to be replaced. In the towns of the B.S.S.R. as a whole, 2.7 million square metres of state-owned housing space are to be made available for occupancy in the period 1946-50, including 650,000 square metres to be furnished by local soviets. An additional 1.5 million square metres are to be constructed by individual home owners assisted by the state loans.

In the sphere of cultural development, the number of schools in the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is scheduled to be 11,375, with an attendance of 1.5 million. The number of hospital beds is to reach 30,000.

Considerable industrial expansion is also planned for the western regions of Byelorussia. According to the plan, these regions are to contribute about one-fourth of the Republic's total industrial output in 1950.

Among the new industries scheduled for construction in the western area is a sugar refinery of 6,000 tons annual capacity in 1950. Other food processing factories are to be built, as well as a number of textile and clothing factories. Electric power stations are to be restored and new ones built, including hydro-electric stations. These are a major need in the western regions, which in 1938 had power facilities that supplied only 0.5 per cent. of the electricity in pre-war Poland, and were undeveloped in comparison with the Soviet Byelorussia.

407 outbreak of the German attack, it was estimated that the B.S.S.R had 12,000 tractors, 1,500 combine harvesters, and 20,000 other agricultural machines.

Agricultural Development of Western Byelorussia

241 311 The arable area of the Byelorussian Republic was increased by about 3,597,000 hectares in 1939, when Western Byelorussia was rejoined to the Soviet Union. According to the Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland, London, 1941, this territory in 1938 had 136,000 hectares under cultivation of wheat, 1,132,000 hectares under rye, 664,000 hectares under oats and barley, 518,000 under potatoes, and 60,000 hectares sown to flax.

241 423 Before the incorporation of the western territory into the B.S.S.R., its agriculture was primitive. Eighty to 90 per cent. of the population were engaged in agricultural work, and there was practically no mechanization. After 1939, however, many changes were made. The People's Assembly of Western Byelorussia declared all land, timber, and water resources to be the property of the state, (that is, public property);; and subsequently, 646,000 hectares of land were distributed among the poorer peasants, as well as 540,000 hectares taken from large estates and given to poor and middle-class farmers and to formerly landless hired men. Fourteen thousand hired men and poor peasants also received horses, and 33,400 households received cows.

474 [475] Many of the farmholdings were then organized into collectives; about 1,000 kolkhozes were formed in a short time, and over 100 machine and tractor stations erected. In 1940 these west Byelorussian M.T.S. had 1,500 tractors at their disposal - about 15 per cent. of all the tractors held by the M.T.S. of the Republic.

[727] The process of collectivization in Western Byelorussia was interrupted by the German occupation, which destroyed the Soviet system of land utilization, and at present the work of reorganization is not moving along very rapidly. By 1946 only about 100 collective farms, combining 2,802 individual holdings, had been reorganized and were again functioning; and this is but a small fraction of the peasant population in the western region. However, government officials state that no immediate pressure is being exerted to promote collective farms.

German Devastation of Agriculture

727 241 The German occupation from June 1941 until the summer of 1944 left Byelorussian agriculture exhausted and devastated. The enemy had destroyed 9,200 villages and more than 1,200,000 peasant holdings. Ninety-two state farms and about 10,000 collective farms had been plundered and destroyed. All the food processing plants had been blown up; and over 316 machine and tractor stations had suffered destruction and looting; from them the Republic lost 8,996 tractors, 1,105 harvester combines, and countless numbers of other agricultural machines which the Germans either wrecked or carried off to Germany.

727 Livestock was practically wiped out;[1] the Germans had confiscated
231 more than two million head of cattle, three million pigs, and three million sheep and goats. A few cattle had been hidden away in the woods and swamps. The only horses left were those which had been either too old or too small for army use, and therefore discarded by the German or Soviet armies. Most small livestock had disappeared, and poultry and bees had vanished completely.

727 The land itself was in a terrible condition.[1] Orchards were
241 neglected; and drainage systems had been either deliberately ruined to flood the land, or permitted to deteriorate. Crop areas had
433 sharply decreased, and yields fell drastically for want of fertilizers and draught power to cultivate the land efficiently. The area of cereals had fallen by 42 per cent., that of technical crops by 86 per cent., and of potatoes, by 53 per cent. Crop rotation had been completely upset, and grasslands ruined. Nearly 20 per cent. of Byelorussian territory was literally a desert.

When the UNRRA Mission arrived in Byelorussia nearly two years after the liberation, agricultural conditions had not materially improved. In the course of a tour through eastern Byelorussia in June 1946, Mission members reported that "throughout the northeast region at least half the rural houses are destroyed." Some regions showed even greater destruction; in the Surazh region east of Vitebsk, only 661 houses remained in 1944 out of 10,136 pre-war dwellings. The town of Surazh itself had 1,395 buildings before the war, of which only three were standing in 1944. By June 1946 there were 150 buildings in the town, all newly built except the three mentioned.

In the Polotsk and Vitebsk oblasts (provinces) only 58 and 64 per cent. respectively of the pre-war crop areas were under cultivation in 1946, two years after the liberation. In 1945 the crop yields were only 25 per cent. of pre-war production. The UNRRA Mission stated: "The low yields and unplanted lands are largely due to lack of tractors and to the plough-land having become overgrown with weeds and brush since 1941. A large proportion of cropland is reported to be now idle because of uncleared mines, trenches, gun emplacements, etc. In the Surazh region uncultivated battlefields total one-quarter of the pre-war 87,500 acres of crop land."

The Polotsk and Vitebsk provinces possessed before the war 115,000 horses and 2,290 tractors; and about 2 million acres of land were under cultivation. In 1946 only 24,000 horses and 760 tractors were available; and 40 per cent. of the cropland remained uncultivated.

000 Since the time of these observations UNRRA Mission members have made many more inspection tours throughout the Republic. Among the many places they have had opportunity to observe was the Lenin Collective Farm in the Minsk raion (district), which they visited in December 1946. Because the experience of this farm is fairly typical, a small part of its history is reproduced in the following paragraphs.

[1] [In the war period from June 1941 to the Summer of 1944 -- Analyst]

Destruction of the Lenin Collective Farm[1]

474 The Lenin Collective Farm consisting of three villages and one sub-village, comprises an area of 1,500 hectares situated about 30 kilometres south of Minsk. It was organized in 1930 with 100 households, which had increased to about 200 by the outbreak of the war. At present there are 172 households with a population of 572 persons, of whom 208 are workers. Of these workers, only 57 are men. This proportion is explained partly by the shortage of men, and partly by the fact that a number of men reside in the village but work off the farm. There are 150 school children, and the remainder of the population are pre-school children, aged persons, and invalids.

474 727 During the German occupation, enemy forces were not situated in these villages; but punitive expeditions would come at intervals from Minsk, surround a village, and proceed to terrorize and kill the inhabitants. On at least one occasion the villages were bombed. The local people believe that the Germans were using the villages for target practice. In all, 177 people were killed during the war, of whom 20 were killed while fighting at the front, and the rest were civilians. Eight entire families were destroyed, and every family without exception suffered the loss of one or more members. Numerous children were orphaned.

The people remained on the farm during the first year of German occupation; then in the summer of 1942 they all fled to the forests - 70 leaving in a single day - and did not return to the farm until after liberation in 1944. Seventy-five members of the collective were partisans, in addition to those who served in the army.

The farm was thus completely abandoned for two years. The people returned late in the summer of 1944 to find their farm stripped of machinery, most of the barns and sheds burned, and nearly half of the dwellings destroyed. All the livestock not removed to the woods with the people had been either killed or driven off by the Germans before their retreat. The following losses were enumerated by the Collective Farm Chairman:

Dwellings. Seventy-two houses, including adjacent sheds; a clubhouse with accommodation for 160 people; and a large schoolhouse.

Barns and stables. Three large grain barns; three stables for horses; two stables for cows (120 animals capacity each); a pig shelter large enough for 150 animals; and a poultry farm with capacity for 260 hens.

Machinery and tools. Four tractors; three straw cutters; one silage cutter; two root cutters for making fodder; one clover thresher; one three-ton truck; and three narrow-row seeders.

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1 Report by Davis McEntire, UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, December 13, 1946.

474 727 The farmers had hidden their ploughs, harrows, and small implements so that these were available with which to begin farming again in 1944; but all the heavy equipment was lost. Livestock losses amounted to 500 cattle, 125 horses, approximately 1,000 pigs, and about 800 sheep and goats. The peasants had taken their horses into the forests, and of those, 40 were brought back at liberation. These 40 horses and four cows were the sum total of livestock on hand at liberation.

In 1944, owing to the lateness of the season and to lack of implements, seeds and livestock, the farmers were able to sow only a very small part of their land. Most of the area brought into cultivation that first year had to be spaded by hand, because there was no draught power. In 1945 the farmers succeeded in bringing half of their their cropland under cultivation, still substituting hand spading for ploughing to a considerable extent.

As stated earlier, the area of this collective is 1,500 hectares. About 200 lectares are in meadows, 69 hectares in woods, and 421 hectares in pastures, gullies, and roads. The pre-war crop area was 810 hectares, and in 1946, this had been largely restored, except for hops, but not the pre-war yields. The following table shows the areas of cultivation in 1945 and 1946.

TABLE V

241 474 Lenin Collective Farm, Minsk Raion, Byelorussian S.S.R.: Crop Areas in 1945 and 1946 (in hectares)

	1945		1946	
Grain				
Oats	125		155	
Barley	75		75	
Wheat	25		19	
Winter rye	nil		186	
Winter wheat	"		8.5	
Buckwheat	10		8	
Total grain		235		451.5
Potatoes	100		94	
Vegetables	20		14	
Lupin (sown with rye)	nil		(83)	
Lupin (for seed)	10		9	
Clover	nil		90	
Hops	"		2[1]	
Total area sown		365		660
Fallow		445		150
Total cropland		810		810

[1]Pre-war area of hopyard, 4.5 hectares

Source: UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

407 tractors in time for either the spring or the autumn ploughing season in 1946. The first shipment of UNRRA tractors arrived in the Republic in December. Altogether, UNRRA expects to deliver about 800 tractors. The Byelorussian Minister of Agriculture gave the Mission an estimate that 20,000 15-horsepower tractor units would be needed to reorganize farm work on an adequate level of mechanization.[1]

In speaking of the need for farm machinery in this Republic, the UNRRA Mission said: "It is important to recognize that Byelorussian farming is not a hand-tool agriculture. Rehabilitation and recovery here does not mean a better hoe - it means a better tractor. It means more combine threshers, more grain drills and mechanized equipment. Rehabilitation of agriculture here means re-establishment of the pre-war rate of mechanization of farms, which, in turn, will release labour for still more tractor factories and still more industrialization. Byelorussian farmers spaded by hand 200,000 hectares (half a million acres) in 1945 and half that amount in 1946. Such labours do great credit to the industry of the farmers, but a hungry Byelorussia and a hungry world will not be fed by such primitive farming methods."

Farm Buildings

727 362 By the end of 1946 enough housing had been repaired or built in the B.S.S.R. to enable 250,000 families (about 1.5 million people) to move from dugouts or caves into houses. Rural schools had also been transferred from dugouts to new premises. The Byelorussian newspaper Sovietskaya Byelorussia (issues of December 17 and 24, 1946) reported that 254,000 houses had been restored in rural areas since liberation. Eighty-two thousand had been rebuilt in 1944, 112,000 in 1945, and 60,000 in 1946, and 45,556 houses were still in process of construction. As at the end of 1946, 10,000 rural families (50,000 people) were still living in dugouts and caves.

Farm Manpower

464 Besides the deplorable housing situation, which contributes to lowered work efficiency, there is a great shortage of labour. Since the war it is women rather than men who constitute the main labour force on Byelorussian farms. UNRRA Mission observations in mid-1946 gave a ratio of four to six women to every man. In some sections, 80 to 90 per cent. of the workers were women. On one farm visited the labour force consisted of five men, 75 women, and 21 young boys and girls. A total of 43 men from this one farm had been killed during the war.

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1 The 15-horsepower unit is the common method of computing tractor numbers. Most Soviet tractors are larger than 15-horsepower, but a 45-horsepower machine would be considered, for example, as equivalent to three tractor units. An editorial in Sovietskaya Byelorussia, Minsk, January 8, 1947, stated that the average output per 15-horsepower tractor in 1946 was 338 hectares of ploughing, sowing, harvesting, and threshing, which is 73 hectares higher than the average for 1945.

185 433 grain crop amounted to 119 million tons, and the target for 1950 is set at 127 million metric tons. Production of potatoes in Byelorussia is to increase by 6 per cent., and of flax by 31 percent.

Fishing

226 Before the war fishing was an important source of food supply in Byelorussia, where the many inland lakes and streams abound in pike, perch, bass, sandre, bream, and other fresh-water fish. Osweia Lake, a body of water about 3,500 acres in extent, produced some 500 tons of fish annually, when 50 men were engaged in year-round fishing. At that time the fishing collective at the lake employed nets measuring almost a mile in overall length; but today very little fishing is being done for lack of nets and other equiptment. Osweia is not an isolated example.

• [127] An extensive system of fish culture, including the stocking of fish and the addition of chemical fertilizers to assist plant growth in the lakes, was destroyed during the war. The Germans depleted available fish resources by discharging explosives under water to bring the stunned fish to the surface. Many young fish were exterminated by this method of explosive fishing, without regard to conservation. At present the system of fish culture in Byelorussia is being slowly reinstituted, but is handicapped by the lack of nets. UNRRA shipments of fishing gear have, however, contributed valuable assistance in this regard.

The new Five Year Plan provides that "by 1948, pond culture will be restored to pre-war proportions."

The fish catch in 1950 is expected to be 5,200 tons.

TABLE VIII

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B.S.S.R.: Industrial Output in 1932 and 1937
(in million roubles, 1926-27 prices)

	1932	1937
Metalworking	81[1]	233[1]
Chemical	43.9	106.7
Woodworking	115	201
Paper	18.5	42.1
Hosiery	29.6	117.3

1 The output of the metalworking industry of the entire Soviet Union in 1932 and 1937 amounted to 9,410 million and 27,519 million roubles respectively.

Source: Socialist Construction, Moscow, 1939.

The gross industrial output of the B.S.S.R. in 1937 was 1,926 million roubles, as compared with 1,018 million in 1932 and only 116 million in 1913. In the Soviet Union as a whole, gross industrial output was 95,332 million roubles in 1937 as compared with less than half that amount (or 43,343 million roubles) in 1932.

Industrial Development of Western Byelorussia

Of the twelve oblasts which today comprise the Byelorussian Republic, five (Baranovichi, Brest, Pinsk, Grodno, and Molodechno) are in the western areas which were a part of Poland between 1920 and 1939. In 1939, when these oblasts rejoined the B.S.S.R., nearly 90 per cent. of their population was employed in agricultural work. The level of industry, as well as of agriculture, was very primitive, the yearly per-capita industrial output being only 48 roubles, compared with 400 roubles per person output in the Byelorussian Soviet Republic. Despite the fact that in the western areas 88,000 hectares were under cultivation of flax in 1939, there were no flax mills in operation; whereas the B.S.S.R. by that time had 70 flax mills at work.

To overcome the relative backwardness of the western region and to assist the mechanization of agriculture, the Soviet Government invested 726,400,000 roubles there in 1940. In the period between incorporation and the German attack in June 1941, some increase in industrial output was achieved. For example, the match factory at Pinsk trebled its output.

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Grodno, an important town in the western area, before the war had a bicycle plant, agricultural machinery works, a tobacco factory, lime works, and a shoe factory, all of which were demolished during the war. Brest, formerly named Brest-Litovsk, was a city of importance with a streetcar and sewer system and river traffic on the Bug. In August 1946,

727 when visited by UNRRA Mission observers, Brest was found to be about 50 percent. destroyed, and with a population estimated at 35 to 40 thousand, making it no more than the sixth city in size in the B.S.S.R. Baranovichi, also visited by UNRRA observers in August 1946, was found half demolished and with a population of 20,000. The municipal economy had been so little developed in Baranovichi that the Oblast Soviet Chairman, speaking before the Byelorussian Supreme Soviet as a Deputy in September 1946, asked that five million roubles be allocated in the Five Year Plan for the construction of a water works and sewer system in the city.

438 185 During the Five Year Plan, 1946-50, considerable industrial expansion is planned for the western oblasts. If the Plan is fulfilled, they will contribute about one-fourth of the Republic's total industrial output in 1950.

Among the new industries scheduled for construction in the western areas is a sugar refinery of 6,000 tons annual capacity, to be located in the Grodno oblast. In the city of Grodno will be built a woollen cloth factory which, together with a new factory to be constructed in Minsk, will produce 1.6 million metres of woollens in 1950. At Lida in Baranovichi oblast is to be founded a rubber shoe-sole factory which by 1950 is to produce half the requirements of the B.S.S.R.'s shoe industry. A sheepskin overcoat factory is to be built at Pinsk. New bread factories are to be put in operation in Grodno, Brest, and Pinsk; a food concentrates plant will be built at Lida; and the meat-packing plant at Baranovichi is scheduled for restoration.

377 185 Electric power stations are to be restored in Grodno and Brest, while new ones will be built in Baranovichi, Lida, Pinsk, and Molodechno. Hydro-electric stations will be constructed also, among them a station on the Shar river at Slonim and a larger station of 7,000 kilowatts at the Vileia waterfall in Molodechno oblast. As has been stated earlier, electric power facilities are a major need in the western oblasts, which in 1938 supplied only 0.5 per cent. of the electricity in pre-war Poland.

508 Also to be built at Brest is one of the Republic's three largest airports; the other two to be in Gomel and Minsk.

German Destruction of Industry

727 The destruction of Byelorussian industry by the Germans during the war was savage, systematic, and complete. At the Minsk trial of war criminals in January 1946 it was charged that the Germans had demolished or transferred to Germany the buildings and equipment of 10,338 of the B.S.S.R.'s industrial enterprises. The methods employed for this destruction were identical throughout the Republic.

In Minsk, for example, the industrial enterprises had been turned over to four or five German firms (Borman, Schorowa Werk, Trebotz, Schlachthof, and Trol), which carried off to Germany or to German-occupied territories, all the equipment and machinery which was of any

727 value; the Germans then proceeded either to blow up the buildings or raze them to the ground. They thus destroyed 23 of the largest factories, the railway-car repair works, the machine-tool plant, the "Proletari" glass factory, two brick kilns, the "Udarnik" sealoo manufacturing plant, the meat-packing plants, eleven bakeries, confectionery and biscuit factories, the knitted-goods mills, and the "October" and "Krupskaya" garment factories.

In their inspection tours of the B.S.S.R., UNRRA Mission observers have noted wide-scale devastation and plunder everywhere; the most severely devastated areas being the northeast and central sections of the Republic. After a visit to northeast Byelorussia, Mission members reported that they had not seen a single factory intact. Devastation of industry was complete, and restoration has had to start from the ground up.

339 Starting from the ground up, however, is always difficult; and
727 it is particularly difficult in the B.S.S.R., where there is a shortage of everything required to do the job. Building materials, electric power, machinery, and transport are all critically scarce. The chief building material seems to be salvaged brick from the rubble of destroyed factory buildings; and most of the reconstruction work is being done by hand. Power equipment of the kind ordinarily seen on major construction jobs is almost completely lacking. UNRRA Mission members even as late as June 1946 had not seen a crane, powershovel, bulldozer, scraper, or tractor in use. Later in the year some of the UNRRA machinery began to arrive, but nowhere in quantities sufficient to make a real impact.

Lumber and bricks for reconstruction purposes are being manufactured at restored factories, but output is only a fraction of normal. Under the German occupation practically all sawmills in Byelorussia were looted of machinery and then demolished when the Germans were driven out. In Vitebsk oblast, all the large pre-war sawmills were destroyed. Up to June 1946 it had been possible to restore only a few. Polotsk oblast before the war had 12 large sawmills; in 1944 only about five to ten per cent. of the sawing frames remained. By mid-1946, although 17 sawmills were operating in this oblast, their work was proceeding on a very small scale, usually in the open air, and with limited equipment. Output of lumber was greater than before the war, but it consisted only of logs, beams, and rough-finished boards, since the equipment was inadequate for well finished work.

Brick plants were likewise destroyed by the Germans, and are in process of restoration. In Polotsk oblast, for example, there were before the war, 36 brick yards. In 1944 there was not one remaining in the entire oblast. In the summer of 1946 there were 17 back in partial operation; and 32 more were expected to be built in 1946-47.
339 The UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia supplied the following description of Polotsk brick factory No. 4, which had been partially restored by June 1946:

339 "Before the war this factory was fully mechanized, driven by electric power from an 85 kilowatt dynamo and producing ten million bricks a year. Today the only mechanized processes are the elevation of clay and the actual mixing and pressing of the brick. The clay is dug from the nearby river bank by hand. Water is pumped from the river by hand, six women operating a rocker hand-pump, three at each handle. The freshly processed bricks are lifted by hand from the machine into small cars, and the latter are then pushed by hand over a track to the drying sheds and furnace where again all operations are by hand. Power for the processing machine is supplied by one antiquated 60-horse-power stationary steam engine which broke down once during our short visit.

[433] "The production goal for 1946 at this Polotsk plant[1] is four million bricks, estimated by the Russian director as enough to build 40 apartment houses of ten four-room apartments each. Present output is limited to the capacity of one double-nozzle pressing machine, which we estimated could produce approximately 23,000 bricks per eight-hour day. This output may be contrasted with the brick plant in the UNRRA programme which is to have a specified capacity of 60,000 bricks per eight hours."

727 393 433 Probably typical of the general industrial situation in 1946 was a radio factory at Minsk, visited by UNRRA Mission observers in May. Before the war it was said to be the largest radio factory in the Soviet Union, with an output of 1,000 radios weekly. The Germans removed all the machine tools and other equipment and wrecked the interior of the building, leaving only the outer walls standing. Partial rebuilding of this factory required more than a year. Machine tools were brought from Germany, and the factory in May 1946 was estimated to be producing some what less than a third of its pre-war rate. Before the war the factory had a staff of 2,200 persons. The labour force at the time of these observations was 550, plus 60 to 70 German war prisoners. Of the workers employed, only 50 had worked in that particular factory before the war. Many of the present workers are very young, some just in their teens; and a large percentage is women. Since the factory itself had no training programme, its workers were trained in the Labour Reserve.

323 433 Where no machine tools are available, progress is even more limited, and the range of possible products is much reduced. For instance, the glass factory at Borisov is limited to hand-blown articles. No rolling equipment was available; hence no flat glass could be produced, although window glass was urgently needed for reconstruction of other industries and of housing. In the Vitebsk garment factory, the only sewing machines available are treadle-operated old fashioned models. In many instances, shoe production was largely confined to hand cobbling. Even where the factories have been restored and could produce more, the shortage of raw materials 433 depresses their output. The linen factory in Orsha was the largest in the Soviet Union before the war. In 1946 it was 70 per cent. restored, but flax production was so limited that the factory was

[1] [Brick factory No. 4--Analyst]

288 The output of cotton cloth in the B.S.S.R. will also come from
433 restored mills. The two million metre target is considerably below
185 the 1937 output of 9.3 million metres (0.27 per cent. of total Soviet production), and even below the 1932 rate of 4 million metres, or 0.15 per cent. of the Soviet Union total.

295 Finished clothing, shoes, and hosiery in the B.S.S.R. are produced
433 under the Byelorussian Ministry of Light Industry; and the output in
185 1950 is expected to be as follows:

Shoes	7 million pairs
Hosiery	13.5 " "
Knitted underwear	3,510,000 units
Knitted clothes	1,680,000 "

The shoe output will come mainly from large restored factories in Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel, and other cities. The above figure does not include output under co-operative and local industry; the total shoe production in Byelorussia in 1950 being set at 9,430,000 pairs, as compared with 8,075,000 pairs in 1937, (4.41 per cent. of total Soviet production) and 3,462,000 pairs in 1932, (3.98 per cent. of the Soviet Union output).

The lower production targets for cotton cloth and hosiery may be associated with the fact that the U.S.S.R. now has available new sources of textiles and clothing, notably at Lvov, Khaipola, Riga, Narva, Tallin, and other Baltic cities. Moreover, under the national Five Year Plan for the U.S.S.R., the cotton textile industry of Central Asia will be expended near the sources of raw cotton, and proportionately less cotton will have to be shipped to processing mills in European areas of the Soviet Union.

Electric Power Stations

377 In 1937 the electric power stations of the B.S.S.R. had a capacity of 88,600 kilowatts and produced 430.4 million kilowatt hours of electric energy. Considerable progress had been made in electrification since 1932, when the B.S.S.R.'s stations had a total capacity of 50,000 kilowatts and produced 176.7 million kilowatt hours. For the entire Soviet Union, the output of electric energy in 1937 was 36,400 million kilowatt hours, as compared with only 13,540 million in 1932.

377 During the war the electric power stations of Byelorussia were
727 almost completely destroyed by the Germans. Since liberation they have been restored to only a limited extent, despite assistance from UNRRA, which, as part of the industrial rehabilitation programme, has furnished a number of power stations complete. In June 1946, when UNRRA Mission members visited Borisov, Orsha, Vitebsk, and Polotsk, facilities were estimated to be as follows.

TABLE XI

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727 Electric Power Facilities in Four Byelorussian Cities, Pre-War and June 1946

City	Population June 1946	Pre-war capacity of electric stations (kilowatts)	June 1946 as per-cent. of pre-war
Borisov	43,000	4,500	22
Orsha	34,000	30,000	10
Vitebsk	62,000[1]	12,000	6
Polotsk	24,000	2,500	2

1 1939 population: 167,424.

Source: UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

In these cities, all electricity available was being consumed by industry and public institutions, while dwellings were virtually without light. At Orsha, the restored facilities could have furnished light to dwellings as well, provided there had been wiring, switches, and bulbs.

The situation in rural areas is even worse. Before the war many collective farms had their own small electric power stations, all of which were plundered or destroyed by the Germans. The Surazh raion had six small farm stations with a total capacity of 800 kilowatts before the war; but even as late as June 1946 it had nothing, because although a new station was under construction at Surazh, there was no equipment for it.

The present shortage of electric power is a serious obstacle hampering industrial recovery. In this respect, UNRRA is making a considerable contribution. As at October 1, 1946, 30 power units with a total capacity of 8,400 kilowatts had been shipped to the B.S.S.R., and 35 additional units representing electric generating capacity of 10,400 kilowatts were still to be delivered.

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377 The Five Year Plan calls for the output of 650 million kilowatt hours of energy in 1950. To achieve this, electric power stations with a capacity of 243,000 kilowatts are to be rebuilt and put into operation. Small hydro-electric stations with a total capacity of 16,000 kilowatts are to be built, and the municipal power stations at Gomel, Mozyr, Grodno, and other towns restored.

For the development of the economy of the Republic, there are to be put into operation electric power stations under the Republic's jurisdiction with a total capacity of 47,000 kilowatts, including hydro-electric stations with 10,000 kilowatt capacity.

Transport

Railways

496 In 1928 the length of the railways in the B.S.S.R. was 2,500 kilometres; in 1932 - 3,000 kilometres; and in 1937 - 3,100 kilometres.[1] In 1937 the railways of Western Byelorussia had a length of 3,415 kilometres, according to the Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland, published by the Polish Ministry of Information, London, 1941.

Roads

727 491 During the war, both railroads and motor roads suffered devastation and demolition at the hands of the Germans. The following extract from an UNRRA Mission report of June 1946 conveys the situation with respect to roads in the B.S.S.R.:

"In the cities visited and along the roads travelled by the Mission party during our 700-mile motor trip, all bridges and culverts had been destroyed. What had once been reinforced concrete and steel spans across the Berezina at Borisov, the Dnieper at Orsha, and the western Dvina at Vitebsk and Polotsk, are now reduced to rubble piers in the river beds and demolished approaches. Substantial wooden bridges, resting on log piers, have been erected at the main crossings, and remain today much as they were when first built in 1944 by the Red Army advancing westward. Some destroyed bridges have not been replaced at all, and river crossings are effected only by boat. Small bridges and culverts have been largely replaced by temporary plank crossings, and there are still numerous winding detours around culverts that remain unrepaired on less frequented roads.

"In our trip we travelled over three kinds of road surfacing: hardpacked dirt, cobblestone, and asphalt. The Minsk-Moscow three-lane asphalt highway is in good repair over the stretch covered from Minsk to Orsha, and along the roadside we observed several road repair gangs with asphalt pots and two or three road rollers, of the trailer type. Elsewhere we travelled over cobblestone and dirt roads, all of which were in fairly good condition but are still pitted with remnant shell holes and numerous ruts, which in rainy weather are difficult to pass through. One trip which we planned to make, from Lepel to Bigomel, the partisan city which never surrendered to the Germans, had to be abandoned at the last minute because the bridge at the main river crossing en route had been blown up by the Germans and was not yet restored. Although road repair equipment could be used to good effect along the dirt and cobblestone roads, not more than half a dozen pieces of such equipment were observed during the entire trip, after leaving the Minsk-Moscow highway."

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1 Socialist Construction, Moscow, 1939.

Housing Reconstruction

727 The cities of Byelorussia were universally laid waste by the Germans, and even today they are still in ruins with great empty spaces and blocks of gutted buildings. Rebuilding is proceeding slowly.

362 185 According to official estimates, 74 per cent. of the housing space in cities and raion centres of the B.S.S.R. was destroyed during the war. The Five Year Plan calls for the restoration of 4,200,000 square metres of urban housing during the next five years, of which 1.5 million square metres are to be constructed by individual home builders assisted by state loans. During the two years between liberation and September 1946, a total of 1.2 million square metres of housing had been restored in cities and raion centres; but this was the easiest part of the work, since it involved mostly the repair of those buildings which still had some walls standing. Housing restoration will have to move at a faster rate than 600,000 square metres a year to reach the 4.2 million square metres goal by 1950, when there is to be an estimated 8.2 million square metres of urban housing space in Byelorussia.

In the restoration plans, provision is made to erect three pre-fabricated house factories with a combined annual output capacity of 600,000 square metres of housing by 1950.

The long-term housing plan is to provide 9 square metres per person, according to the Mayor of Minsk. However, in October 1946 facilities were much below that standard, and it seemed doubtful to the UNRRA Mission whether the figure would be reached by 1950.

The present per capita housing space available is not known. But in cities like Gomel, UNRRA Mission observers have been given estimates that available houses are occupied at double to triple their pre-war capacity.

The only available figures on pre-war housing are those for the first Five Year Plan period. These apply to what were then classed as "okrug", or regional cities, of which there were in 1927, eleven with a combined population of approximately 540,000. In 1927-28 they had a total of 3,093,000 square metres of housing space, occupied at the rate of 5.5 square metres per person. The first Five Year Plan called for expanding the housing space in "okrug" cities to a total of 4,263,000 square metres, occupied at the rate of 6.69 square metres per person.

The target of 8.2 million square metres of urban housing space by 1950 is about double the 1932 figure. This amount, including housing in some 170 raion (district) centres, is distributed among what are classed as "oblast" cities (these governed directly by the oblast or regional soviet as well as by the local city soviet), which were 18 in number in 1945. Among this number are all those cities classed as "okrug" cities in 1926, plus seven cities in the western oblasts; Baranovichi, Brest, Vileika, Grodno, Lida, Molodechno, and Pinsk.

362 185 These seven cities were not included in the 1939 census, when the total urban population of Byelorussia was determined as nearly 1.4 million persons. Assuming that the urban centres of Byelorussia merely recover their pre-war population, and if the urban residents of western Byelorussia be included, the per capita urban housing space available in 1950 will certainly be much less than 9 square metres, since at that rate 8.2 million square metres could supply only about 900,000 occupants. The actual per person rate of urban housing space in 1950 is more likely to be near the 1932-33 rate if planned targets of reconstruction are achieved.

•727 In the rural areas of the B.S.S.R., shelter demolition amounted to 400,000 dwellings of collective farmers, and an indeterminate number of individual peasant homes. In the western oblasts, as has already been noted, the great majority of farmers are not yet in collectives. In a single oblast, Molodechno, 16,000 peasant farms were laid waste. In Grodno oblast, where 117,000 civilians were slain by the Germans, demolition of homes was on a equal, if not greater scale. Thousands of individual peasant homes were also destroyed in other oblasts. A reported total of 1.2 million buildings of all kinds, houses, barns, sheds, offices, were destroyed in the rural areas. As at October 1946, 235,000 dwellings had been restored in the villages, providing shelter for 1.5 million people who were then able to move out of temporary shelters, mostly dugouts and caves. On the whole, progress in the restoration of shelter seems to be more rapid in the villages than in the cities.

Supplementary Aid from the U.S.S.R.

727 362 On December 31, 1946, the Byelorussian Council of Ministers published in "Sovietskaya Byelorussia" a statement that at its request the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. had adopted a decree providing for assistance in the restoration of raions of the B.S.S.R. which had especially suffered from the occupation.

Under the terms of the decree, 27 million roubles have been granted by the U.S.S.R. for expenditure on 2,000 dwelling houses to be constructed in the areas of Byelorussia most devastated by the war. Built at state expense, these houses are to provide shelter for the most needy: families of war invalids, and of fighters (both army and partisan) killed in the war. The total fund is allocated for distribution among 38 districts or raions which are all situated in the eastern and central oblasts of the Republic. Vitebsk, Polotsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Minsk, Bobruisk, and Polessia oblasts are to benefit by the grant.

295 1/ 70 workers, who are also share-holders, receiving 20 per cent. of the annual income in addition to regular wages for work performed.
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Before the war the "Red Shoemaker" artel was situated in a different part of the city. The production process was then entirely mechanized, and the membership consisted of 300 workers. The plant was demolished by the Germans during the war; and the present artel was organized in 1945 when five pre-war members returned to Minsk, following the liberation. At present there is practically no machinery in the artel, and shoes are being turned out by hand.

Medical Supplies: General Health

727 In relation to the vast destruction of Byelorussian medical facilities during the war, the UNRRA medical programme of just over one million dollars is a drop in a bucket. According to official Soviet estimates, the Germans in Byelorussia "ruined and plundered 1,136 hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries," which represented 75 per cent. of all hospitals and almost 100 per cent. of the medical supplies and equipment of the Republic. The damage has been calculated at 600 million roubles (about 120 million dollars).

164 Byelorussian officials today say that the general health of the population is below pre-war standards; but there are no alarming epidemics. Infant mortality is higher than in 1940; and tuberculosis, which increased markedly during the war, is still a serious problem, especially among returned war prisoners, partisans, and former "slave labourers". Typhus, which flared up during the German occupation, still occurs sporadically; and malaria, which spread rapidly during the war when no treatment was available, is still widely prevalent, but is being gradually reduced by the restoration of swamp drainage and mosquito control projects.

146 The most general problem is perhaps malnutrition; and because of the food shortages, scurvy, rickets, and anaemia are prevalent. Children are small for their age; and the adult population, as might be expected in the absence of adequate food, clothing, and shelter, is not in optimum health.

UNRRA Shipments

648 Up to January 31, 1947, nearly 70 per cent. of the UNRRA medical
742 programme for Byelorussia had been fulfilled; 163 gross long tons of drugs and equipment had been shipped. The largest single item of the medical programme is a penicillin plant, parts of which began to arrive in the U.S.S.R. in December 1946. In connection with the plant, the Byelorussian Government has designated a penicillin trainee to study penicillin production in Canada. A specialist hired by UNRRA is to aid in assembling the plant and in training other Byelorussian technicians in the production of the drug. The Byelorussian Government has expressed interest in using the same plant for the production of streptomycin.